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Roxbury, June 14, 1878.

My dear Fanny:

Your letter, announcing your purpose to come to us next Wednesday, with the children and the maid, to remain until it is definitely settled whether you will go to Europe this summer, gives us all great pleasure. We shall be prepared to give you the warmest welcome; and you will find Rockledge looking very lovely indeed.

To-day Agnes completes her twelfth birthday, and will be made happy by Sunday tokens of love, and by a party of her young companions this afternoon. Next week will occur Charley's tenth birthday, and the week after, Helen's. How these



young folks are hastening on to adult age!  
And what cause for thankfulness that no  
vacancy has yet been created in the ranks  
of the grandchildren! May they all be pre-  
served to a ripe old age!

I went to Danvers on Wednesday,  
and spent several hours with Whittier in  
his new home. I was glad to see him look-  
ing and feeling in better health than usual.  
He resides on a beautiful estate called  
Oak Knoll, about a mile from the village,  
and comprising not less than sixty acres of  
land — which is larger by some twelve acres  
than Boston Common. It is laid out and  
cultivated with artistic taste, and has  
upon it a great variety of trees and shrub-  
bery. Last year its apple trees produced  
six hundred barrels. It is just the place  
for the poet whereon to spend the remain-



der of his days. Of course, our meeting was a delightful one, and naturally brought to memory many reminiscences of the past. It is fifty-two years ago, this month of June, since I went to East Haverhill from Newburyport to make the acquaintance of the poet-lad, who was anonymously sending to me, for publication in the Free Press, his first poetical lucubrations.

To-day I am summoned to Court as a witness in the case of William Craft, (the husband of Ellen,) who has sued a gentleman for libelling his character in publicly charging him with getting money under false pretences, with reference to his undertaking in Georgia to cultivate a plantation for the benefit of the freedmen. What damages may be awarded remains to be seen.



Saturday, 2 P. M.

I meant to have finished my letter yesterday, so you could get it to-day, but court matters prevented.

Having attended Mrs. Hull's funeral, I am now called to attend that of my old co-worker C. C. Burleigh, whose remains are to be buried on Sunday afternoon. I shall leave for Florence in the 3 o'clock train this afternoon, to return probably Monday night.

William and Ellie left this morning for Osterville, and will not return until Tuesday evening.

Frank is in Providence to-day, as a witness in court in a case brought by Houghton ~~vs~~ Osgood. He will return this afternoon, and go to the Sewalls, at Melrose, where there is to be a lawn party.

Your loving Father.